

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

Figs. 7-9 are flow charts of communications methods that may be implemented by the systems of ~~Figs. 1-5~~ Figs. 1-6.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

For illustrative purposes, ~~Figs. 1-5~~ Figs. 1-6 describe a communications system for implementing techniques for transferring electronic data. For brevity, several elements in the figures described below are represented as monolithic entities. However, as would be understood by one skilled in the art, these elements each may include numerous interconnected computers and components designed to perform a set of specified operations and/or dedicated to a particular geographical region.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

The communications link 115 typically includes a delivery network 160 making a direct or indirect communication between the client system 105 and the host system 110, irrespective of physical separation. Examples of a delivery network 160 include the Internet, the World Wide Web, WANs, LANs, analog or digital wired and wireless telephone networks (e.g. Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), or x Digital Subscriber Line (xDSL)), radio, television, cable, satellite, and/ or any other delivery mechanism for carrying data. The communications link 115 may include communication pathways 150, 155 that enable communications through the one or more delivery networks 160 described above. Each of the communication pathways 150, 155 may include, for example, a wired, wireless, cable or satellite communication pathway.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

The OSP host complex 480 also includes a proxy server 4806 for directing data requests and/or otherwise facilitating communication between the client system 405 and the Internet 465 ~~through~~. The proxy server 4802 may include an IP ("Internet Protocol") tunnel for converting data from OSP protocol into standard Internet protocol and transmitting the data to the Internet 465. The IP tunnel also converts data received from the Internet in the standard Internet protocol back into the OSP protocol and sends the converted data to the routing processor 4802 for delivery back to the client system 405.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

The instant notification server 8044b then sends a notification message to a client 802 of a targeted online user (step 920). The client 802 then displays the notification message to the targeted user of (step 922).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 10, a user interface (UI) 1000 illustrates an example of how a polling request is displayed to a targeted online user. The UI 1000 includes a browser window 1005 rendering an electronic ballot 1010. The electronic ballot 1010 includes a polling issue or question 1015, an elapsing voting time limit box 1020, and selectable answers 1025 for voting the electronic ballot 1010.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

In this implementation, the targeting server 8042 designates polling rules (step 805). The targeting server 8042 may perform such designation in response to user input and/or commands from another server in the pod 6810a or the OSP host complex 680. The polling rules may

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include, but are not limited to, the polling issue or question, the target audience or group, and the time limit for answering.